

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 17 and 21-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 17, 21 and 25 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; Claims 17 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; and Claims 17 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In response to the objection to the specification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.71, and to the rejection of Claims 17 and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the specification has been amended and finds support at least at page 8, lines 8-14 of the original specification and Figure 2, and Claims 17, 21 and 25 have been amended and find support at least at page 3, line 27 to page 4, line 6, at page 7, line 17 to page 8, line 5 and at page 8, lines 8-14 of the original specification, and in Figure 2. For example, an acceleration of a cutting blade is prevented after the cutting blade transits a center of an optical fiber by reducing an amount of a drive force applied to the cutting blade to achieve a substantially constant speed of the cutting blade. The amount of the drive force applied to the cutting blade depends, among other things, on a force generated by a drive force transmission part (e.g. cam, cam follower) and more specifically, on a relative position of the cam follower on the cam having a specific cam profile. Using Figure 2 as an example, as the cam 10 rotates, the cam follower 11 travels along the profile of the cam 10. The drive force applied to the cam follower 11 and ultimately to the cutting blade 3 through the cutting blade holder 4 is determined by a drive force (e.g. a turning force applied to an axis that the cam 10 is positioned on) multiplied by a

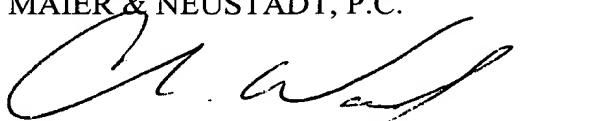
radius of the cam 10 taken at the position of the cam follower 11 on the profile of the cam 10. Therefore, the reduction of the amount of the applied drive force is performed by a drive force transmission part (e.g. cam, cam follower). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection and rejection be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 17 and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 17, 21 and 25 have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the claimed invention. Specifically, as clarified above, an amount of a drive force applied to a cutting blade is reduced by a drive force transmission part to move the cutting blade at a constant speed. Further, the drive force is transmitted between the drive force transmission part and the motor through one of the plurality of speed reducing gears, and the support for this can be found at least at page 7, line 17 to page 8, line 5 of the original specification, for example. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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